

March 11, 2012

Transportation Committee
Room 2300, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Testimony in support of Raised Bill No. 5458 and the use of red light safety cameras to make Connecticut's intersections safer for cyclists and pedestrians

Dear Chairman Maynard, Chairman Guerrero, and Members of the Transportation Committee:

Bike Walk Connecticut strongly supports Raised Bill No. 5458 which would enable Connecticut municipalities to utilize automated red light cameras to improve the safety of busy local intersections.


At Bike Walk Connecticut our mission is changing the culture of transportation through advocacy and education to make bicycling and walking safe, feasible and attractive for a healthier, cleaner Connecticut. That is why we are so concerned with often routine red light running and the infrequent enforcement of traffic laws. We all know of dangerous intersections in our home towns, busy intersections where drivers regularly blow through red lights, putting the lives of other drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians at risk. With municipal resources being increasingly challenged, it makes sense to allow municipalities to decide whether to employ automated devices.

According to Connecticut Department of Transportation statistics, in 2009 26 pedestrians and 1 cyclist lost their lives in Connecticut. Many of these accidents occurred at intersections. These statistics are unacceptable and that is why Bike Walk Connecticut supports the use of red light cameras which have been proven to reduce serious accidents, change drive behavior, and save lives.

There are currently more than 500 communities in 24 states and the District of Columbia utilizing red light safety cameras. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, the use of red light safety cameras in large U.S. cities saved 159 lives and reduced the rate of fatal red light running crashes by 35 percent.

. The evidence clearly shows that red light safety cameras can make our intersections safer for pedestrians and cyclists, and that is why we strongly support Raised Bill No. 5458.

Sincerely,


MaryEllen Thibodeau
President